Deaths due to p sticides poisoning in. Punjab

2430. SHRi Ml KHTIAR SINGH
MAU..K:
SHRI VlitENDRA VERMA: SHRI
SllARAD YADAV: SHRI
HARVENDRA SINGH HAN 3PAL;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleasec to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to the news item under the capti^m "Pesticide poison ing in Punjab" ns reported in the *Indian Express* o the 22nd July, 1987;

(b) whether H is <a! fact that due to highly toxic pes :icide, a large number of deaths h;.ve been taken place during the last < ne year; and

(c) full detail; of such highly toxic pesticides and st ps taken by Government to discont nue the use of such pesticide in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY C*f* AGRICULTURE
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only the Cane Department of the Governmen- of Punjab has reported four dea- hs during 1986-87 and one death, so fa \ during 1987-88 from Dhuri and Nav , Shahar sugar mill areas due to us • of Phorate/Carbofu-tician. Both the insecticides fall under the category of extremely toxic pesticides.

(c) Since Ph orate and Carbofuran are extremely oxic insecticides, Government has token following steps for their safe 1 andling:—

(i) The Registration Committee constituted u ider Secton 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 has registered only encapsulated granular formulations of Carbofuran and Phorate from the point of view of safety to users.

(ii) Labels and leaflets on the containers of insecticides are mandatory requirements under the In-sect.cides Act and the Rules framed there under, which, *inter-alia,* contains various instructions on safety precautions for the benefits of farmers. These lables and lea-nets are printed in three languages viz. Hindi English and one of the regional languages for the benefit of extension functionaries as well as farmers to enable them to follow the required safety precautions in handling the insecticides.

(iii) A coloured triangle is also incorporated on the lables and leaflets to categorise the category of toxicity of each insecticide. This helps the extension functionaries in imparting proper training to uneducated farmers on safe use of pesti- cides .

(iv) The Extension functionaries of the State Governments as well as Associations of the Pesticides Industry organise training programmes on safe use of insecticides for the benefit of farmers and pesticide distributors.

All the registered insecticides, even those falling under the category of "Highly toxic pesticides" do not pose any risk to" human health if they are used as per prescribed directions and with proper safety methods. Therefore the Government has not contem- plated discontinuance of use of such pesticides.

Insecticides approved for grant of Licence

2431. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be phased to state;

(a) whether the Registration Committee of Central Insecticides Board have enlisted products for which registration can be granted to the new